Claims 1-72 remain in the application. In view of the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections and forwarding of the application onto issuance.

Claim Rejections

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All of the claims are rejected under either: (1) 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0099713 Al to Fernandez et al., or (2) under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Fernandez as a primary reference in view of references to Markel and/or Abdelnur.

Rule 131 Declaration

Applicant submits herewith a Rule 131 Declaration that removes Fernandez as a reference. Accordingly, the claims are now in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowability be issued forthwith.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: <u>10 | 29 | 04</u>

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